

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed May 16, 2006 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

In paragraphs 5-6 of the Office Action the Examiner rejected Claims 1-12 under 35 USC 112 as being indefinite. Applicants have amended the claims to overcome this rejection.

Specifically, concerning Claim 1 the Examiner stated that there is insufficient antecedent basis for “the handle support” in line 6. Applicants have changed “the” to “a”. Concerning Claim 4, applicants have canceled the claim. Concerning Claims 8, 9 and 10 the examiner stated that there is insufficient basis for the limitation “the detachment step”. Applicants have changed “detachment” to “separation.”

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102/ 103

In paragraph 9 of the Office Action the Examiner rejected Claims 1-6, 8, 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable by Roberds et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this ground for rejection.

Applicants note that the Examiner did not reject Claim 7. Applicants have amended Claim 1 to add essentially the limitations Claim 7, and accordingly Claim 1 as amended is patentable over Roberds et al. All of applicants’ other claims depend either directly or indirectly on Claim 1 and therefore those claims are patentable as well.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

In paragraph 11 of the Office Action the Examiner rejected Claims 1-3, 8, and 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Malloy et al. in view of Bendik et al. (US 5591678) . The Applicants traverse this ground for rejection.

Applicants note that the Examiner did not reject Claim 7. Applicants have amended Claim 1 to add essentially the limitations Claim 7, and accordingly Claim 1 as amended is

patentable over Malloy et al. in view of Bendik et al. All of applicants' other claims depend either directly or indirectly on Claim 1 and therefore those claims are patentable as well.

New Claim

Applicants have added new Claim 13. Basis for Claim 13 can be found e.g. at paragraph [0058] and Figures 4-5. Claim 13 is dependent from Claim 1 and is therefore patentable at least for the same reasons as Claim 1.

Conclusion

It is believed that this Amendment places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited.

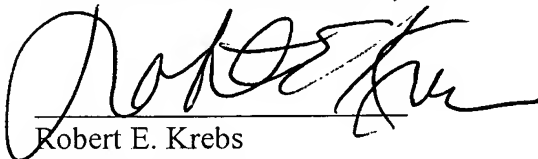
If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Please charge any additional required fee or credit any overpayment not otherwise paid or credited to our deposit account No. 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,

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